

MATWATCH

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VOL. 2, NO. 7

YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR

My old friend, John Hamilton, once wearied of criticism for a service he was performing. So one day, he just cornered the man in charge of his area and said, "David, I've had it! I'm not waiting around six months while you find somebody else. Enough's enough!"



Steve Beverly

If you have lost count, by the end of December, we will have had ten pay-cable shows in 1989 alone, not to mention six WEF MAIN EVENT specials, five CLASHES OF THE CHAMPIONS and even one Verne Gagne Sportschannel supercard, though Larry Zbyszko vs. Greg Gagne is about as super as eating dry Shredded Wheat.

No, this is not going to be a sole indictment of Vince McMahon for adding a PPV card, likely the week between Christmas and New Year's. Ted Turner's adding of a fifth pay show in May (though it was one of the great specials ever) did just as much to clog this cluttered drain.

This might be all the more tolerable if we didn't have eleven other semi-super shows ---plus twelve first-run hours a week from the "big two," not to mention the remaining shows of the significant others....and in my viewing area, that's six other promotions.

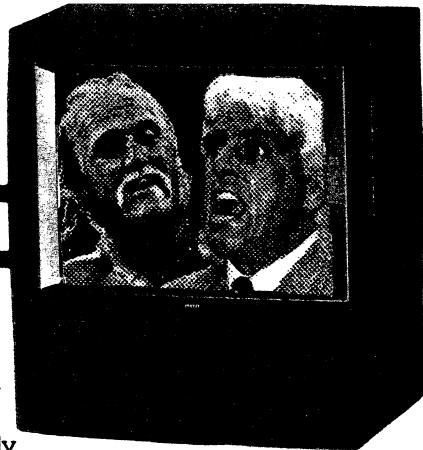
On a creative level, at this point in time, national impressions will make Hogan-Zeus, destined to be one of the worst ring confrontations in American history, overshadow what will probably be a much more balanced and quality STARRCADE the week before. McMahon can pull the throttle with kids and minorities to make that storyline succeed with paying customers more than any of the more adult-oriented NWA matchups.

But my bother goes far beyond the creative level. Increasingly, the MATWATCH phone

line is heating with people saying---as Jeff Zinger does in this week's special YOU SAID IT!--the shows are coming too often, hyped too much and so much pressure is on to top the previous show that even the hardcore fan is beginning to feel nothing is as special as it's built to be. The SUPER BOWL will continue to be the most-watched American TV show of the year but it only comes once every 12 months and enough distance is there to keep fans from caring if it lives up to billing, which it rarely does.

In the Christmas week show, McMahon will produce a one-match show that will do profitable business while being creatively weak, much as WRESTLEMANIA V was; STARRCADE will do less but respectable business. In a sense, it's a bonanza for fans, simply from the availability; in reality, it is bordering on the very danger we have harped on for months now: invariably, the public is eventually going to say NO MAS to this saturation that's as prevalent as fats in pure pork sausage. Face it, can you remember who won the last two ROYAL RUMBLES? Do you remember the 16-minute match between Steve Williams and Italian Stallion at the December 1988 CLASH?

The point is a cry in the wilderness: but it's time both of the "big two" examined what they are doing to their own genre. I go back to what killed weekly prime time boxing on ABC. So many "title" matches aired that few of them seemed special and the ratings ultimately died. I don't want to see that happen to wrestling but the danger is certainly present.



NEXT WEEK: By the time you read this, my wife and I will be on a much-awaited excursion to England. There will be an abbreviated 4-page MATWATCH next week (we haven't done a 4-pager since December). Our TV TEMPO segment, of course, can't offer you results, but we will present a guide to classic TV series episodes which used wrestling as a storyline.

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

TITAN PLANS FIFTH PPV SHOW IN DECEMBER

STAMFORD, Conn. - Less than one month after Vince McMahon denied the NWA was competition on ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT, Titan Sports has scheduled a fifth pay-cable wrestling show in December, likely in the week between Christmas and New Year's Day.

The show will follow the NWA's STARRCADE, scheduled Dec. 17, likely by less than ten days. The holiday special will also follow the WWF's Thanksgiving night SURVIVOR SERIES by only five weeks.

The untitled event is likely to feature a main event between Hulk Hogan and Zeus (Tiny Lister), fueling new speculation that a 1990 WRESTLEMANIA VI topliner could pit Hogan vs. Barry Windham (The Widownaker).

RIC FLAIR TAKES HELM OF NWA BOOKING COMMITTEE

ATLANTA - MATWATCH has learned from sources outside the NWA that NWA world champion Ric Flair has been named chairman of the promotion's booking committee.

Flair succeeds Jim Ross, who resigned from the panel in June. The committee, which still includes Kevin Sullivan, Eddie Gilbert, Joe Hamilton and NWA executive Jim Barnett, has had no chair since Ross' departure.

MATWATCH had endorsed Flair as NWA booker in November 1988. Flair, who won the NWA belt for a sixth time May 7, will have final voice in nightly creative decisions for house shows.

BASH BUY-RATE NOW SAID TO FALL IN 2.0-2.1 LEVEL

ATLANTA - Better-than-expected results in cable system reports will probably land the NWA GREAT AMERICAN BASH: GLORY DAYS pay cable show with a 2.0% buy-rate in an estimated 220,000 homes.

Turner Home Entertainment chief Steve Chamberlain told MATWATCH "we may be slightly in excess of a 2." Chamberlain said the West Coast remains the weakest region for the NWA but Southern systems were "very good for us."

A firm buy figure will not be official for 60 days but a 2.0 would equal a gross of between \$3.5 and 3.6 million.

PINFALL PROFILE

I get few emotional calls, in all honesty about SATURDAY NIGHT'S MAIN EVENT episodes. Oh, usually some WEF hardcores howling about how great they are. And dedicated purists who hate parts of all of them.

If you judged from crowd intensity, the July 29 SNME was the best ever. Of course, one is never certain how sweetened the crowd response is. My own view is Randy Savage-Brutus Beefcake put together one of the best matchups between smaller guys I've seen. Beefcake appeared to me to give considerably more than usual and Savage took some bumps Terry Funk would envy. Twelve two-counts and one of Vince McMahon's better efforts of calling false finishes, often the Vincerster's weakest link.

Further, I thought the Tully & Arn-Demolition confrontation produced an outstanding first fall and two mediocre ones. The insertion of Andre the Giant at ringside in Fall 3 telegraphed what was to come and the finish was the same as Tully & Arn won most of their belts in the NWA. Someone even suggested to me Dusty booked the screw-job finish.

Otherwise, I simply couldn't get intense about Valentine-Snuka and the Hogan-Honky affair was as predictable as all of Hogan's SNME bouts. Same fast start, same trouble with the manager, same Superman comeback and legdrop.

But if you want to see a textbook sales job for a one-match pay-per-view, this was it. I may be wrong but I believe the failure of Zeus to sell any of Hogan's blows set a perfect stage for SUMMER SLAM and in the minds of kids and casual fans, doubts of Hogan's invincibility.

BEST LINES - 1. Arn Anderson, "The critics all said we were too small. What are the critics saying now?" 2. Jesse Ventura: "You could definitely walk down a back alley with Sherri." 3. Vince McMahon, to Ventura: "You wish, on your best day, that your body looked half as bad as that (Hogan's)." 4. Brutus Beefcake, on Sherri: "That woman could scare the 'z' right off Zeus' head." 5. Gene Okerlund: "This could be the greatest victory for the good guys (Demolition) since the invasion of Grenada."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Ventura, on Hogan's reax to Zeus: "Look at your hero, McMahon! Nothing but trembling fear!" 2. McMahon, on Hogan-Honky: "There's not a whole lot of wrestling here." 3. Ventura: "Macho Man is a lot more devastating with Sherri than with you-know-who."

NO KIDDING AWARD - McMahon, after Tully & Arn lose first fall: "The Brainbusters have to come back or it's gonna be all over."

BEST PICTURES - 1. Counterguitar conks on Honky & Hogan. 2. Randy Savage catching leg in ropes. 3. Savage over-the-top bump from backflip. 4. Zeus not selling Hogan chair bash. 5. Closeup of Bill Eadie clotheslining Tully outside ring. 6. Heenan being posted. 7. Heenan Family celebration.

WORST PICTURES - Any shot of Sherri Martel.

WEEK OF JULY 31-AUGUST 6

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See.

PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average.
RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

TV TEMPO

(FLORIDA) - Total Destruction d. Rockhard Rick/Bobby Bruise; Ron Slinker d. El Cid; Italian Stallion d. Mark Smith; CARRIBEAN TITLE: Tyree Pride d. Comrade Busich by countout to keep belt when Busich grabs belt and goes to locker room; FLORIDA TITLE: Steve Keirn d. Dennis Knight; Star Rider Blade d. Brett Sawyer by DQ; Kendall Windham/Ho Chi Wen vs. Al & Lou Perez ends in 4-way melee. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(UWA ALL-STAR) - Timothy Flowers d. Mike Roselli; The Frog d. Beau Richards; Robotron draw vs. Chi Chi Cruise; Danny Denton d. Nevada Kid. VOICEBOX: Frog. RESTHOLD.

(STAMPEDE/July 24) - Ricky Rice d. Goldie Rogers; Johnny Smith d. Kim Schau; White Knights d. Ken Johnson/Drago Zhivago; Angel of Death d. Len Crazyhorse; Larry Cameron d. Ron Ritchie; Chris Benoit wins DQ over Kerry Brown; CLASSIC: Davey Boy Smith d. Dynamite Kid. RESTHOLD.
[July 31]: Rogers draw vs. Schau; British Bruisers d. Ritchie/Sumohara; Davey Boy d. Bill Jodoin; Jason the Terrible wins DQ over Angel; Cameron no contest vs. Benoit. DRAW.

(PORTLAND/2 Wks. Ago) - Rex King d. Al Madril; LOSER LEAVE: Top Gun d. Joey Jackson; Matman d. Moondog Moretti; Beetlejuice/S. Rockers d. Jonathan Boyd/Scotty the Body/Top Gun when Doll moves away from Scotty jump off top & Scotty lands on Gun, who is pinned. Boyd & Scotty doubleteam Gun until Doll saves; Grappler vs. Carl Stiles in progress as show ends but Billy Jack Haynes & Nord the Barbarian brawl at ringside. ANGLES: Boyd steals Beetlejuice's pet rat; Nord slaps Haynes during interview and Don Owen steps between. FIESTA GARDEN: Madril wipes off a kid's Beetlejuice makeup but Matman saves. DRAW-PLUS.

[Last Week]: Beetlejuice d. Grappler by DQ; Peterson d. King; Top Gun/Doll d. Scotty/Boyd (cage); Madril-Stiles ends in progress. FIESTA GARDEN: Madril wipes off kid's makeup again. Rip Oliver comes out to save but Beetlejuice, trying to throw hot coffee at Madril, misses and hits Oliver. Oliver attacks BJ, later throws coffee on him back. ANGLE: Scotty attacks Sandy Barr, whips with belt. Top Gun challenges Scotty to strap match. DRAW.

(SCW) - Steve Prichard draw vs. Kevin Dillinger; Mr. Wrestling II/Rocky King d. Invader/Eddie Sweat; Joel Deaton d. Bobby Bennett; Steve Lawler d. Lee Peek; Mr. Atlanta/Mike Golden vs. Nightmare/Chic Donovan ends in brawl. BOMB.

(ACW) - RECAP SHOW but 2 new matches: Nelson Royal d. Bobby Bennett; Tommy Angel d. Colt Steel. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/SYND.) - [NWA PRO]: Brian Pillman d. Jacko Victory; Midnight Express d. Alex Parteau/D.J. Meadows; Samoan Swat Team d. Davey & Johnny Rich; Skyscrapers d. Dingdongs; AMATEUR MATCH: Steve Williams loses DQ to Mike Rotunda. Other winners: Steiner Bros. PEDICINO'S NOSE (both shows): Recap of Flair/Sting vs. Muta/Funk brawl and Flair interview. DRAW-PLUS. [WORLD WIDE]: Scott Steiner d. Craig Whitford; Terry Funk d. Chico Cabella; Freebirds d. Rishes; Williams d. Colin Orsack; New Zealand Militia d. Dingdongs; Pillman d. Bill Irwin. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[MAIN EVENT]: Scott Hall d. Al Green. RECAPS: Ricky Steamboat d. Butch Reed; Freebirds-Road Warriors (Cage). DRAW.

(AWA) - Sgt. Slaughter d. Ray Brown; ARM WRESTLING: Scott Norton d. Brown and raises jackpot for Flair, Hogan or Zbyszko to "\$750,000"; The 3 Guerreros d. The Hangmen/The Executioner; AWA TV TITLE: Sheik Adnan al-Kaissie wins by DQ when Greg Gagne throws ref out of ring twice. Greg fined \$2,500 by Joe Blanchard; HANDICAP: Norton d. Destruction Crew by reverse decision from Blanchard after Mike Enos trips up Norton. DRAW...not bad for recent AWAs.

(WEF/USA) - From SNME: Jimmy Snuka d. Greg Valentine when Ronnie Garvin decks Greg; WWF TAG TITLE: Tully & Arn d. Demolition 2-3 falls when Andre the Giant hits Smash with chair; OTHERS: Dino Bravo d. Dale Wolfe; Jim Duggan d. Gladiator; Tim Horner d. Mike Sharpe; Hillbilly Jim d. Sandy Beach; Rougeau Bros. d. Todd Becker/Paul Roma. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(WEF/SYND.) - [SPOTLIGHT]: SNME CLIPS: Savage loses DQ to Beefcake, Tully & Arn-Demolition; Others include Duggan-Gladiator, Bravo-Wolfe and BRO. LUV w. Andre the Giant/Anabolic Warrior. RESTHOLD.

[CHALLENGE]: Tito Santana d. Sharpe; Ted DiBiase d. Mark Reagan; Curt Hennig d. Johnson; Hillbilly d. Don Champ; Tully & Arn d. Mario Mancini & partner; From SNME: Savage-Beefcake. FEATURE: Mean Gene w. Savage-Sherri-Zeus. BOMB-PLUS.

[SUPERSTARS]: From SNME: Savage-Beefcake; BRO. LUV w. Tully & Arn; Rockers d. Boris Zhukov/Beach; Hercules Hernandez d. Chris Duffy; Twin Towers d. Mike Williams/Terry Daniels; CLIP: Roddy Piper's returns to WMS, PTW; Foghorn Leghorn wins squash; Anabolic d. Barry Horowitz; Honky Tonk Man d. Tony Durante. RESTHOLD.

(WCCW) - Mil Mascaras wins DQ over Al Perez to earn shot at Jerry Lawler. After, Perez/Skandor Akbar jump Mil, who ducks Akbar punch & Skan hits Al; ARENA: Bill Dundee d. Mr. Devastation when Nate the Rat his Mr. D with own cane; INTERVIEW: Eric & Percy on USWA battle with Akbar for World Class; VIDEO: Cactus Jack Manson/Gary Yong; FEATURE: Mr. T w. Kerry Von Erich, Young challenges T; Kerry d. Bam Bam Bigelow by countout. POWERSLAM.

(NWA/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Eddie Gilbert d. Bounty Hunter; Scott Steiner d. Rip Morgan; Sting/Steve Williams d. Terry Funk/Terry Gordy by DQ when Gary Hart runs in. WNN: Gordon Solie reports Ricky Steamboat leaves NWA for "personal reasons," discusses Tully & Arn WEF title win, battle over World Class. FUNK'S GRILL: Terry promotes Norman to Maniac after Norm wins game of WIN, LOSE or DRAW. DRAW-PLUS...best FUNK'S GRILL yet.

[WCW]: HANDICAP, Dan Spivey d. George South/Bob Emery; Tommy Rich d. Trent Knight; Road Warriors d. John Brewer/Fred Avery; DANGER ZONE: Paul E. w. Michael Hayes; Eddie Gilbert/Sting d. N.Z. Militia but Muta & Funk hit ring, double on Sting before Ric Flair saves and four-minute brawl ensues. DRAW. [MAIN EVENT]: Freebirds d. Dynamic Dudes; Midnight Express d. New Zealand Militia. DRAW.

(CWF) - Wendell Cooley d. Don Harris; Dennis Condrey d. Tom Lively; Danny Davis wins DQ over Terry Garvin when "Beast" runs in before Adrian Street saves; Jimmy Golden d. Donut Don Sanders; CWF TAG TITLE: Southern Boys win DQ over Robert Fuller/Brian Lee when Golden runs in but Jerry Stubbs saves and 3-minute brawl erupts. DRAW.

LINES OF THE WEEK - 1. Terry Funk & Teddy Long, TBS: (T, on math formula) "Looks like pi r' to me." (TL) "Terry, don't you know cornbread is square and pi is round?" 2. Jesse Ventura, WEF: "McMahon, it's always exciting sitting next to you...it's fun having to do 2 jobs instead of one." 3. Lee Marshall, AWA, on Hangman I: "This guy was probably homecoming king at Parts Unknown High." 4. Gary Young, WCCW, to Mr. T: "Without the A-Team, you can't fight anyway." 5. Jim Davies, Stampede: "The Dogfight of the Decade" (Davey Boy vs. Dynamite) will make Wrestlemania V look like applesauce." 6. Larry Zbyszko, AWA: "I don't even know what color commentary is." 7. Jim Cornette, TBS: "It took the Braves so long to lose last week, it was almost 7:05 am when the POWER HOUR was on the first time." 8. Jim Ross, TBS: "For those of you who sat through that 17-inning loss, we'll offer some counseling for you later." 9. Roddy Piper, PTW: "It'd be nice if they put 'closed-captioned' on Andre for the people who CAN hear." 10. Piper, PTW: "I wonder who does Zeus' hair. Someone with a sense of humor."

11. Mr. T, WCCW, to Marc Lowrance on Young's arrival: "You sure you didn't have anything to do with this here?" 12. Cornette, TBS: "Gordon Solie is the Walter Cronkite of wrestling. Does that mean Jim Ross is the Dan Rather...or Andy Rooney? 13. Gorilla Monsoon, PTW: "I think Dale Wolfe is material for the HEENAN SHOW." 14. Heenan, TBHS: "How about those Oinkettes? 25 of the nicest young ladies you'll ever see." (They're a trio.) 15. Ventura, WEF: "Tweedle-dee & Tweedle-dum. I thought that was you (McMahon) & Okerlund." 16. Funk, TBS: "Norman reminds me of John Belushi on a 2-week binge." 17. Piper, WEF, on Dusty: "I kept waiting for him to go Y-M-C-A." 18. Chris Adams, WCCW: "What I'm trying to do these days is absolutely control my emotions." 19. Lance Russell, NWA: "Rotunda, we gotta report to you, is using some FOUL language at the Doc." 20. Scotty the Body, Portland: "Squirt (Top) Gun's a dead ringer for the Mario guy on the Donkey Kong game."

21. Scotty, to Top Gun: "Put your arm down. Get some deodorant on." 22. Don Coss, Portland: "Most people would rather face his arm than your nose." 23. Gary Hart, TBS: "You can't beat Lex Luger with the same mentality as trying to beat Trent Knight." 24. Lex Luger, TBS: "What I've become is the Michael Tyson of the NWA." 25. Michael Hayes, TBS: "If you thought Marietta was the massacre...Atlanta will be the annihilation." 26. Funk, TBS: "You are going to see the Nolan Ryan of professional wrestling." 27. Dennis Condrey, CWF: "I'm the Alabama Babymaker. I hate the promotion. I hate bookers." 28. Charlie Platt, CWF, to Downtown Bruno: "Aren't you about the size of your state flag?"

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Ross, POWER HOUR: "We had a near-fall situation in the ring. I don't know WHY we were outside!" 2. Piper, PTW: "Just BEING in Worcester could make history." 3. Eric Embry, WCCW: "World Class board of governors, you know what you can STILL do with yourselves."

DUSTY RHODES QUOTEBOOK LINE - Tully Blanchard, WEF: "We ARE the World Wrestling Federation."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Jesse Ventura, WEF: "Since when does someone of Hulk's size need a chair?" 2. McMahon, WEF: "Since when are you (Jesse) concerned with courtesy?" 3. Ventura, WEF: "What else is a beach but Sandy? What would you call him: Rocky Beach?"

SHORT MEMORY AWARDS - 1. Frank Dusek, WCCW: "I don't know if Lawler's ever been tested by Bam Bam Bigelow." 2. Ventura, WEF: "The Twin Towers---quite possibly the biggest team in the history of wrestling." (Jesse must have missed the McGuire Twins.)

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. McMahon, calling Akeem, Andre & Bossman "The Eiffel Tower & the Twin Towers." 2. Calgary fans, calling Kerry Brown "Daddy's Girl." 3. Ricky Rice, calling Larry Cameron "Ethel Cameron." 4. Kerry Von Erich, calling Mr. T "The King of Kings."

BEST PICTURES - 1. TBS, fan mooning Terry Gordy. 2. WEF, Anabolic Warrior ripping Horowitz's mouth. 3. WCCW, closeup of Mr. T at ringside. 4. WEF, shot of Herc's chain as he tortures Duffy. 5. Steiner eating popcorn on POWER HOUR. 6. TBS, Funk ramming Doc into steel rail. 7. TBS, closeup of Sid Vicious on WCW.

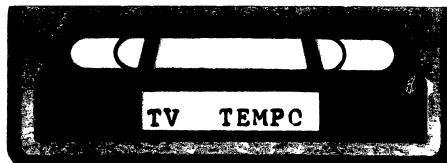
WORST RING ANNOUNCER - NWA man on POWER HOUR.

BLOOPER AWARDS - 1. Gordon Solie, TBS, for calling NWA world TV title "National TV title." 2. Bulldog Bob Brown, Stampede, for "Dynamint Kid."

DREADED GLITCH AWARDS - 1. USA, for starting HEENAN SHOW open before tag team title match finishes. 2. CWF, for EXTOIC Adrian Street on graphic.

BEST IMPRESSION - Ross, doing Solie.

BEST NEW ACT - FAN SCAN, Power Hour, with fan mimicing Flair's coat removal.



BOO AWARD - CWF, for showing Condrey match as baby-face after showing his heel turn last week.

TUBE TALK: Another fine brawl between Funk/Muta & Sting/Flair but they pulled out too quickly again....Keith Mitchell did first-rate production job on WCW....WCCW had nice show but 7:30 Manson/Young video way too long....Chris Cruise planning to host pre-show video party with KFC in Portland, Maine before Aug. 30 WEF taping. Call (207) 773-7084 for details....One thing which could help the PTW pairing. Eliminate that news desk because the setting is off balance for Piper to be in a higher chair & Gorilla at floor level....CWF brawl would have been much better if the out-of-ring had been lit.

I think the Saturday night 3 hours on TBS is going to be one hour too long but we'll watch the rating...Really impressed with the announce work of Lance Russell & Paul E. Dangerously on MAIN EVENT. Paul is improving on the color....Stampede viewers quite upset about plan not to show Owen Hart matches on TSN....Keep a watch on things and I'll see you when we return from England. FSB.

CABLE RATINGS

Week Ending July 31	RATING	SHARE	HOMES
WEF PRIME TIME (USA 7/31)	3.8	6.1	1.83 Million
WEF BOBBY HEENAN (USA 7/31)	3.7	6.3	1.78 Million
WEF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 7/30)	2.6	8.3	1.25 Million
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 7/30)	2.4	5.5	1.19 Million
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 7/29)	2.3	6.0	1.13 Million
NWA GREATEST HITS (TBS 7/30)	1.8	4.5	890,000
NWA POWER HOUR** (TBS 7/29)	1.1	3.5	540,000
NWA POWER HOUR (R) (TBS 7/29)	0.8	8.2	400,000

** - Actual start at 12:30 am on 7/29 after Braves runover.

(ANALYSIS: The Piper-Monsoon duo, criticized in some quarters for not jelling, continues to draw record USA ratings. Big note of the week: Heenan holding onto most of PWL's audience and increasing its share. Saturday & Sunday NWA shows up again. WCW up almost a full point from that record low of 7/24 with its second 6% share in three weeks. That 17-inning Braves game killed POWER HOUR numbers.)

YOU SAID IT!

I was very surprised to see you give the NWA announcing crew a 4.5 score for their BASH play-by-play. I thought Bob Caudle had the worst announcing night I've heard. As for Ross, his call of the WAR GAMES left a lot to be desired and, although it wasn't his fault, the cracking, hoarse voice in the final matches was irritating. You can't make an excuse saying he did well "considering" he had laryngitis, just as you wouldn't give great reviews to a match where one wrestler had a sprained ankle.

Caudle was embarrassing during the manager's match, calling the action like he was at a strip joint. It seemed the entire night, Caudle only followed up on Ross' comments, and never really lent insight—just constant rephrasing and agreeing with Ross. I think it's time to set PPV shows apart from each other by having Russell and Pedicino call one, then follow with Ross and Hayes, and possibly Solie and someone else. The WWF rotates announcers and it gives credibility to the entire crew while adding a unique personality to each show.

WADE KELLER
PRO WRESTLING TORCH
MINNEAPOLIS MN

matwatch Page 5
Aug. 7-13 / Vol. 2, No. 7

• Maybe Titan did the Dusty piece because they thought it was funny. I sure did as did my wife and a few friends, too. What's the fuss? It's a work. Different strokes for different folks, as they say. Also, before Vince cuts the crap, maybe some should change the channel.

LLOYD LEA
PORTLAND OR

(FSB: You're right about to each his own, Lloyd. My quarrel isn't with Vince's right to do it or my option to change the channel—which I did on 2nd viewing—but on whether it was really necessary to go to the toilet.)

After watching the NWA Bash, it appears to me your NWA champ showed his Achilles heel. Ric Flair can't bawl. Flair is not in the same league as Terry Funk, Eddie Gilbert, Bruno, Jerry Lawler, and even my champ Hulk Hogan. Funk did the best he could but the chemistry just wasn't there. I would rate this match just above average: a "B" on my scale. The WAR GAMES fray lacked the proper opponents. Hayes, Garvin and the Midnights had no business participating. I'm no fan of blood but here is where it should have been. And how do you explain the NWA/Maryland hypocrisy concerning the main event's bloodbath based on last year's Bash?

I did enjoy Kevin Sullivan & Mike Rotunda's match with the Steiners. Kevin may not give you a long match but it sure is action-packed. Steamboat vs. Luger was the best match, just a tad below the Steamboat-Flair masterpieces. Luger continues to improve and impress while the Dragon solidifies his position as the best worker in the business.

JOHN H. LANIGAN
McKEESPORT PA

I watched the Baltimore Bash and it was awfully good (other than the camera work—you have every right to pick on Tammy Edwards). I think I do like things, though (I'm experiencing massive wrestling burnout right now, so I find it hard to get too excited). I do think they're having their problems with the pushing of various angles (either too much or not enough). I certainly don't think the buildup for Flair as a face was done as well as it could have been. One thing I would like to see is some more comic interplay between Norman and Teddy Long (who deserves the critical raves he's getting).

JEFF ZINGER
WOODSTOCK ONT, CANADA

The KTVU (San Francisco-Oakland) documentary on the World Wrestling, I mean, Entertainment Federation was an overblown SUPERSTARS OF WRESTLING with some WRESTLEMANIA V and a PRIME TIME match (which was a good one). The only interesting thing was the host mentioning the Blue Blazer's family without giving his family name. Also, an interview with Zeus showing he hates anybody speaking trite French phrases (just see for yourself).

DAVID MELLO
CROVILLE CA

Many thanks for your most kind words in the anniversary issue of MATWATCH....I notice ole cohort Freddy Miller doing voiceover promotions (NWA). He sounds good on those, crisp and clear, which is what is needed in that machine gun delivery.

I remember in the early '50s, before any TV wrestling hit the air in Atlanta, the only shows on came from Chicago: Wayne Griffin was the announcer on one and Jack Brickhouse on the other. A young wrestler was featured on these shows, just out of Purdue University, Ray Gunkel.

ED CAPRAL
PANAMA CITY FL

(FSB: Any fan of the old Georgia shows who would like to drop Ed a line, write him in care of MATWATCH and I will forward the mail to him.)

YOU SAID IT!

I'm enjoying the action on the CWF but I'm ALREADY getting tired of Robert Fuller's mouth and I only see more of it to come in the months ahead. I also broke down and watched a WWF show recently (PRIME TIME). Poor Roddy got old REAL quick and Heenan's show is RIDICULOUSLY bad!

I'm NO saint and I think Missy Hyatt is very pretty but I'm tired of Jim Ross's "clever" remarks about her ample breasts. Of course, Missy brings it on by wearing some revealing clothing.

DAVID WILLIAMSON
CLEVELAND TN

I'm a big Jim Ross fan and feel he deserves all the accolades he gets but enough is enough on the Missy Hyatt "pair" comments. It's enough now to make your ALL-CLIQUE TEAM.

MARY WEBB
HICKORY NC

It's a thrill to receive your (news)letter. It is a goldmine of information on both the shows and behind-the-scenes activities. I look forward to you writing many more issues. If necessary, hire a nanny if a new member enters your family.

GEORGE FOSTER
STANFORD CA

I have been going to a friend's house to watch PRIME TIME WRESTLING since Roddy Piper has returned. He is great. But I haven't figured out the BOBBY HEENAN SHOW. Maybe somewhere down the line, Piper will take over and have his own show.

DIANE DEVINE
DENVER CO

(FSB: Our sympathies to Diane on the recent passing of her mother.)

Get Heenan off the air! NOW!

ED STEPHENS
LAKE OKECHOBEE FL

MATWATCH SHOPPERS NETWORK

RICKY SHORT, Rt. 2, Box 297, Gretna VA, is seeking tapes of Medusa Miceli in Japan, Central States ('88-'89) and matches with Candi Devine and Penny Mitchell.

BILL KUNKEL (last known address: 8906 Woodhaven Blvd., Woodhaven NY) is moving to Las Vegas but his recent ANGLE newsletter has great cartoons and Bill is working on a BEST OF ANGLE. Write to the New York address for issue info.

DR. TROY B. SLUDER, Rt. 10, Box 56-B, Chapel Hill NC, is seeking any info, arena results and old TV tapes of the defunct Global Wrestling Alliance.

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STEAMBOAT UPDATE: An NWA press release has Ricky leaving to have a needed foot operation. That's true but other sources tell us if contract talks had gone better, the surgery would have been postponed.

GOODBYE, GORDON: Gordon Solie definitely gone from FCW. Wayne Coulter says Oliver Humperdink as host is an interim move.

ANIMATION: The Florida group is about to add a 3-minute animated segment directed strictly at kids. The animated character will be supered over the live action.

ERRATA: One correction...Nasty Boys were fired from FCW for refusal to do a Broadway, not a job.

TITAN STONES: Titan continues hot and heavy for the rights to December ROLLING STONES PPV concert. Two other companies, including Showtime, are also in battle.

CHANGING FACE: Look for the full World Class conversion to USWA by end of the month for September start in syndie markets. But many fans still hot about ending of Mil Mascaras-Jerry Lawler world title match where Mascaras won, albeit controversially, the belt on Friday night and on the next night's TV, the announcers acted as if nothing had happened and Lawler was still champ.

TENNESSEE TRAIL: This Friday's Knoxville CWF card features a 6-man with Southern Boys & mystery partner vs. Fuller/Lee/Golden, Dennis Condrey defending CWF title vs. Wendell Cooley and Doug Furnas putting up Tennessee belt vs. Tom Prichard. Furnas, I'm told, looked fabulous in Japan. But why do they always revive this belt for him?

DENVER ROCK: Rock & Roll Express (I assume Ricky & Robert) booked for Aug. 26 at an IWA Denver show. Morton is stuck for now in a CWF feud against RPM Mike Davis.

THREE HOURS: Because of a Braves pre-emption, POWER HOUR will be seen Saturday night on TBS this weekend. WCW will run a full 2 hours and then POWER from 8:05-9:05 (EDT) with Hawk vs. Samu one of the topliners.

AMERICAN VADER?: Reports are that Big Van Vader (Leon White) is trying to get rights to use the ring name in the U.S. Stories are he'd like to work for NWA.

COMINGS & GOINGS

ARNOLD & THE BOYS: The Nevada Athletic Commission and Arnold Skaaland got into a nasty tiff over those ridiculously short Anabolic Warrior wins over Andre the Giant. Lots of complaints from kids who wanted to see more of Warrior. Reportedly, that whole program is being reworked.

BOBBYWATCH: If you read the ratings on Page 4, you saw the dramatic HEENAN SHOW rebound. USA had given Vince McMahon a 3-week cancellation notice with an angle of Piper destroying the HEENAN set to end the show. At press time, no decision had been made to reconsider.

WHO'S HAUNTING THE NWA?: The NWA, which earlier had a bad crowd in Pennsylvania on a night THE WHO was playing just blocks down the street, had to buck the rock group in both St. Petersburg and Miami.

NETWORKING: FCW should close a deal this week to get on Florida's Sunshine Network on cable. WXTX (Columbus GA) officially announced cancellation of its 8-9 pm wrestling strip, effective Sept. 4. The indie retains NWA PRO and USWA Saturday mornings but the move leaves the WEF (and SCW) without a local affiliate.

SYNDICATION: We got the numbers late, but for the week ending July 23, WEF posted a 9.8 on 250 stations and NWA a 4.8 on 148.

SUPERSTARS STRIP: The addition of the two NWA syndie shows to Boni Blackstone's SUPERSTARS marathon on WVEU in Atlanta resulting in strong ratings. The 8 pm-3am block posted a 3.8 in the seven hours on July 29.

PORTLAND PALL: Is trouble brewing in Portland? Rip Oliver's back. Don Owen says he wants to phase out Billy Jack & Nord and Top Gun's been turned twice in 4 weeks. Somebody should give Len Denton a call!!!

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